United Nations S/2001/297

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 March 2001
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 28 March 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 25 March 2001 from Mr. Hamid Yusuf Hammadi, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the ongoing wanton aggression against Iraq by United States and British aircraft in the unlawful no-flight zones and to the fact that in the period from 6 to 18 March 2001 they carried out 230 sorties, 108 of them from Saudi Arabia, 106 from Kuwait and 16 from Turkey.

The Minister reaffirms the Government of Iraq's condemnation of these acts of aggression against Iraqi territory, and he states that international responsibility for them must be borne by the United States of America, the United Kingdom and the countries that provide the logistic support for this aggression, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey. He urges you to perform the duties assigned to you under the Charter by halting this unwarranted aggression and ensuring that it does not recur.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed A. **Al-Douri**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

01-31402 (E) 030401 030401

Annex to the identical letters dated 28 March 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I should like to inform you that United States and British warplanes based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey have continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq. They carried out 230 sorties in the period from 6 to 18 March 2001, 108 of them from Saudi Arabia, 106 from Kuwait and 16 from Turkey, as shown hereunder.

1. In the northern region 16 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

At 0115 hours on 16 March 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 16 missions, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Amadiyah, Dohuk, Baibo, Ayn Zalah, Irbil, Rawanduz, Aqrah, Zakho, Tall Afar, Mosul and Sinjar areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1340 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 214 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1940 hours on 6 March 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 22 missions, 16 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and six from the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Umm Qasr, Artawi, Nasiriyah, Basrah, Samawah, Salman, Diwaniyah, Jalibah and Shinafiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 2145 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1025 hours on 8 March 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 20 missions, eight of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 12 from the demilitarized zone with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Ashbajah, Lasaf, Rumaythah, Artawi, Shatrah, Jalibah, Basrah, Samawah and Nasiriyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1200 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 0950 hours on 9 March 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 46 missions, 12 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 34 from Kuwaiti territory, by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait, with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah,

Nasiriyah, Jalibah, Samawah, Najaf, Shinafiyah, Karbala', Diwaniyah, Qal'at Sukkar and Ashbajah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1130 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 0800 hours on 10 March 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 26 missions, 14 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 12 from the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Diwaniyah, Nasiriyah, Kut, Najaf, Karbala' South, Qurnah, Samawah, Salman, Artawi, Jalibah and Lasaf areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1015 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1115 hours on 12 March 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 28 missions, 16 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 12 from the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Ashbajah, Lasaf, Jalibah, Salman, Samawah, Nasiriyah, Shinafiyah and Busayyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1735 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 1425 hours on 13 March 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 15 missions, eight of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and seven from the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Busayyah, Salman, Lasaf, Ashbajah, Shatrah, Safwan, Artawi, Basrah, Shinafiyah, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Diwaniyah and Rifa'i areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1545 hours, drove them off.

(g) At 0055 hours on 15 March 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 17 missions, 10 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and seven from the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Jalibah, Lasaf, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Shinafiyah, Najaf, Salman, Diwaniyah and Qal'at Sukkar areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 0320 hours, drove them off.

(h) At 0055 hours on 17 March 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 24 missions, 16 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and eight from the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft

operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Busayyah, Salman, Jalibah, Lasaf, Artawi, Ashbajah, Shatrah, Safwan, Basrah, Nukhayb, Samawah, Rumaythah, Shinafiyah, Mashkhab and Qurnah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 0315 hours, drove them off.

(i) At 0125 hours on 18 March 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 16 missions, eight of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and eight from the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Ashbajah, Nasiriyah, Shinafiyah, Qal'at Sukkar, Lasaf and Salman areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 0505 hours, drove them off.

This aggression illustrates the bellicose attitude being maintained by the United States of America and the United Kingdom towards Iraq. Since 1992, it has become a fixed policy aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and at the systematic and concerted destruction of Iraqi lives, infrastructure and civilian installations. It is a policy that has been affirmed in successive statements made by United States and British officials.

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the two so-called no-flight zones, which were imposed by unilateral decision of the United States and the United Kingdom and lack any legal basis. Iraq rejects all the consequences of this illegal decision and, in particular, the flimsy excuses and pretexts used by these States in an attempt to justify their military aggression against our country.

The logistic support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the Americans and the British has made these countries key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they bear full international responsibility under international law. This includes liability for full compensation for the loss and damage, in both human and material terms, that is caused by these illegal practices.

The Government of Iraq further renews its call to the countries participating in this aggression to desist forthwith from internationally prohibited acts that violate Iraq's sovereignty, place its security and integrity in grave danger and pose a direct and serious threat to international peace and security.

As it condemns these acts of aggression against Iraqi targets and installations, the Government of Iraq urges you to perform your assigned duties as they relate to the maintenance of international peace and security by intervening with the governments of the countries in question with a view to inducing them to halt, end and desist from any resumption of their constant and unwarranted aggression against an independent, sovereign State.

(*Signed*) Hamid Yusuf **Hammadi**
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq